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3 0 AUG 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Walter Elder

FROM : Robert M. Gates

Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Value of Current Digest of the

Soviet Press to CIA Analysts

CIA analysts have the highest regard for the Current Digest of the Soviet Press (CDSP). Its coverage of diverse issues and inter-disciplinary nature make it a valuable resource for political, economic and military analysts. Translations of important primary material—the annual and five-year plans for example, are timely and accurate. Moreover, CDSP displays no political bias in the articles published, choosing them regardless of whether the Soviets are made to look "good" or "bad". CDSP is a high quality publication of great value to most anyone studying the Soviet Union.

Robert M. Gates

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SUBJECT: Value of <u>Current Digest of the Soviet Press</u> to CIA Analysts

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - DDI

1 - DDI Registry

1 - XO/SOVA

1 - SOVA/EPD/EP

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SOVA/NIG/EPD/EP (27 Aug 85)

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DDI-04147-85

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19 August 1985

NOTE TO: D/SOVA

Doug:

Please take appropriate action on the attached letter to Walter Elder from John McCone preparing a response to Elder from the DDI.

Thanks,

EA/DDI







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JOHN A. MCCONE P.O. Box 1499 Pebble Beach, CA 93953

August 14, 1985



Mr. Walter Elder Falls Church, VA

hand-delivered

Dear Walt:

I am told there is a publication known as Current Digest of Soviet Press. The work of the organization and its reports on soviet press are known as Digest. I am told that the organization was housed at Columbia for many years and then for some reason, moved to Ohio State and is now seeking a home at UC at Berkeley or Stanford or at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. The Digest asks no financial subsidy or assistance but say, so I'm told, that it's essential that they be housed in or close to some recognized academic institution.

The trustees of the Monterey Institute seem to think an association with Digest would be advantageous from several points of view. However, before proceeding, I would like to know what the soviet experts in the C.I.A. feel about Digest and the value they place on their efforts to review and condense soviet newspapers, magazines, books, etc. Digest claims that they summarize articles of importance in some forty soviet newspapers and 25-30 weekly or monthly publications. Please let me know at your convenience.

Regards,

JAM/cp

